

MARVEL
ALPHA
1

GHOST RIDER WOLVERINE

WEAPONS OF VENGEANCE



**PERCY
SHAW
BEREDO**

**PARENTAL
ADVISORY**

**THE PRESENT DAY.
SOMEWHERE
IN NEW YORK.**

Johnny Blaze
and me...we got
a few things
in common.

Maybe there's
a part of us that
longs for company...

The Hudson
River caught on
fire today due to
a toxic spill from
a factory...

...but we
tend to go
it alone.

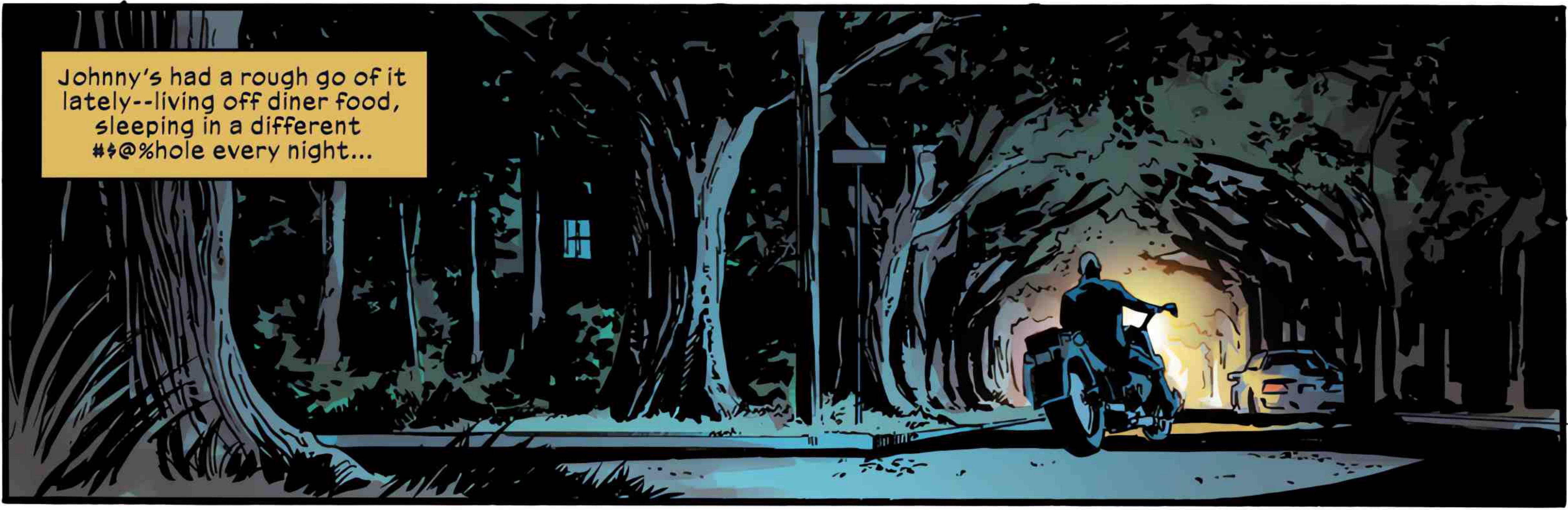
Car 13,
we've got a
reported robbery
at the Quick Stop
on 23rd and
Washington...

Our teams, our relationships,
our families, even our
nations--they fall apart.

RITUALISTIC MURDERS
BAFFLE AUTHORITIES

Nobody's ever sure if
we're the good guys
or the bad guys...

...least of all
ourselves.



Johnny's had a rough go of it lately--living off diner food, sleeping in a different #@\$%hole every night...



...chasing rumors of devils down dark highways.



He's got a demon inside him.



It's a poison, but it's a weapon too.

To fight the darkness, he looks to the darkness inside him.



CREEEIK

That's another thing we got in common.



It's
happening
again,
bub.

What are
we gonna do
about it?



WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A
SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN,
AND **JOHNNY BLAZE** FINDS HIMSELF
TRANSFORMED INTO THE **GHOST RIDER!**

WITH AN UNCANNY HEALING FACTOR AND
ADAMANTIUM CLAWS, THE MUTANT KNOWN
AS **LOGAN** PROTECTS THE INNOCENT AS
WOLVERINE!

MARVEL COMICS
PRESENTS...

GHOST RIDER

WOLVERINE

WEAPONS OF VENGEANCE

ALPHA

PART 1: "SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL"

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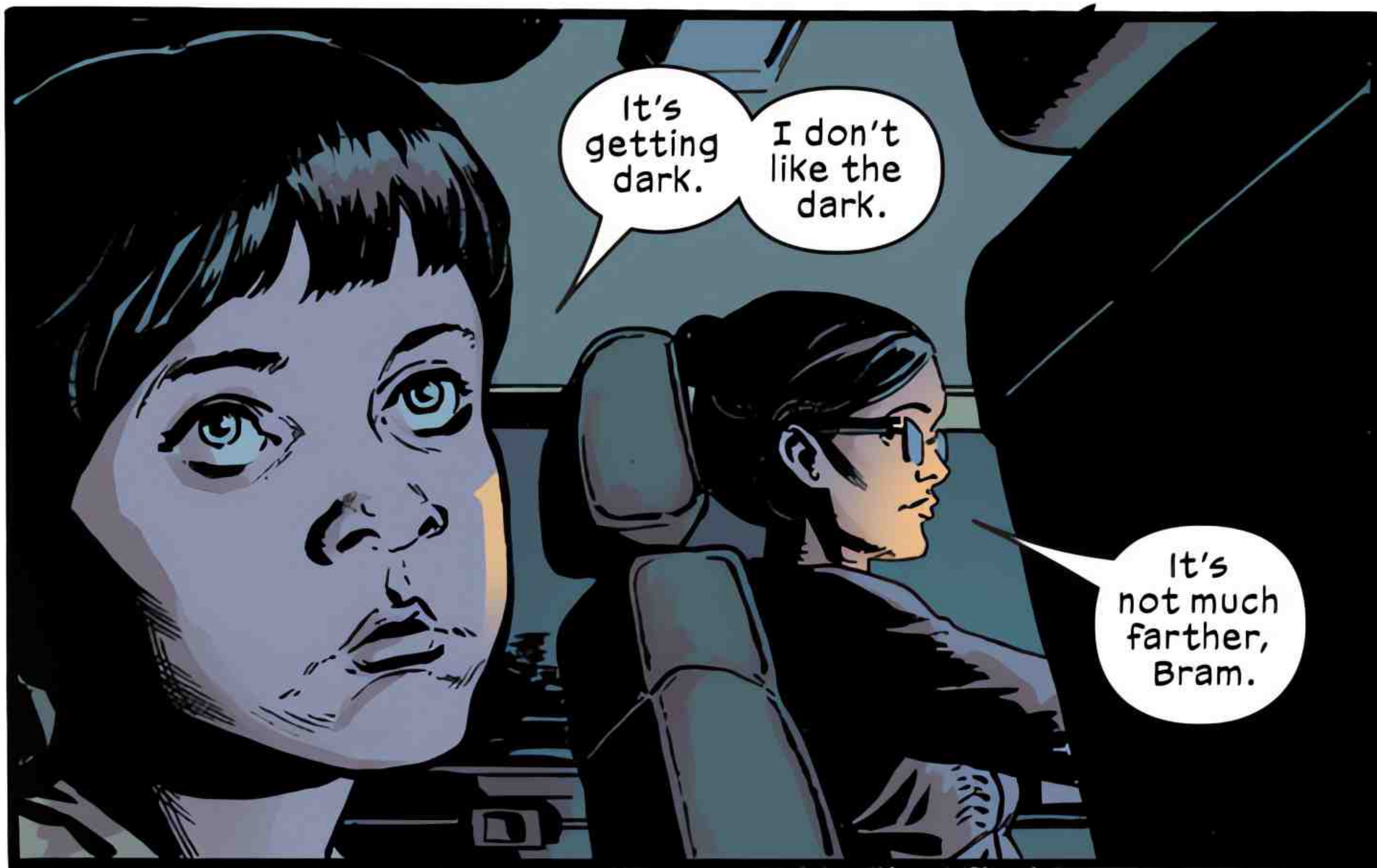
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MANY YEARS AGO.

But there's something else Johnny and I got in common.

Something I haven't thought about in a long time.

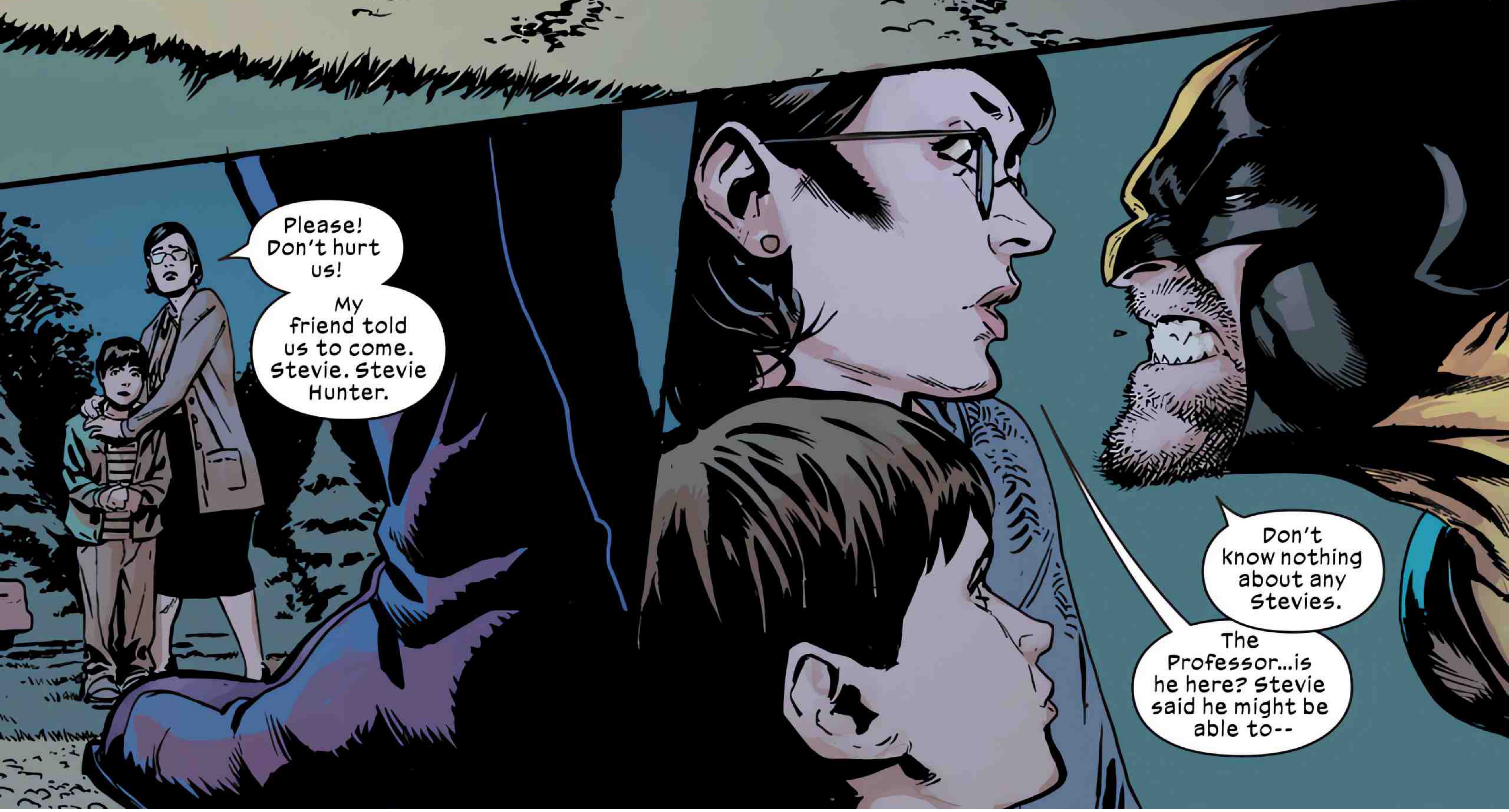




##%& are
you doing
here?

SNIKT

SNIKT



Please!
Don't hurt
us!

My
friend told
us to come.
Stevie. Stevie
Hunter.

Don't
know nothing
about any
Stevies.

The
Professor...is
he here? Stevie
said he might be
able to--

I'm Charles Xavier, and you're very welcome here.



SNIFF
SNIFF

You'll have to excuse my friend.
He's rather...suspicious of outsiders.

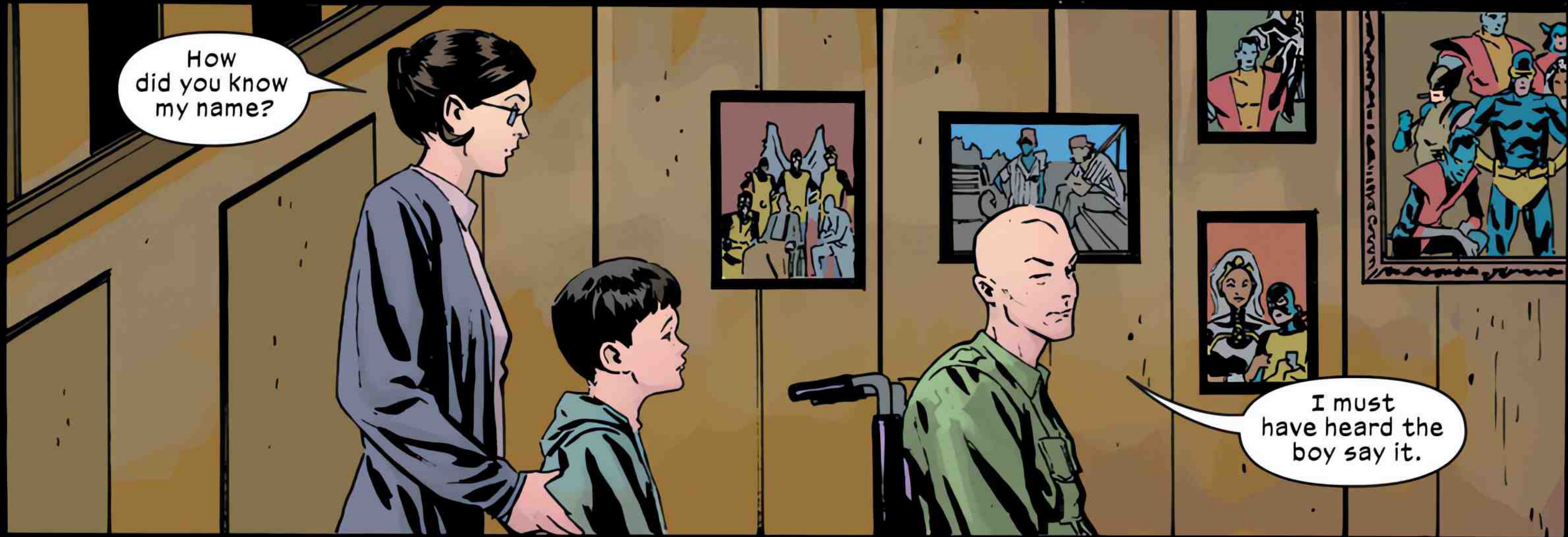
I sense your desperation...
Ms. Ada Flores.
Please come in.

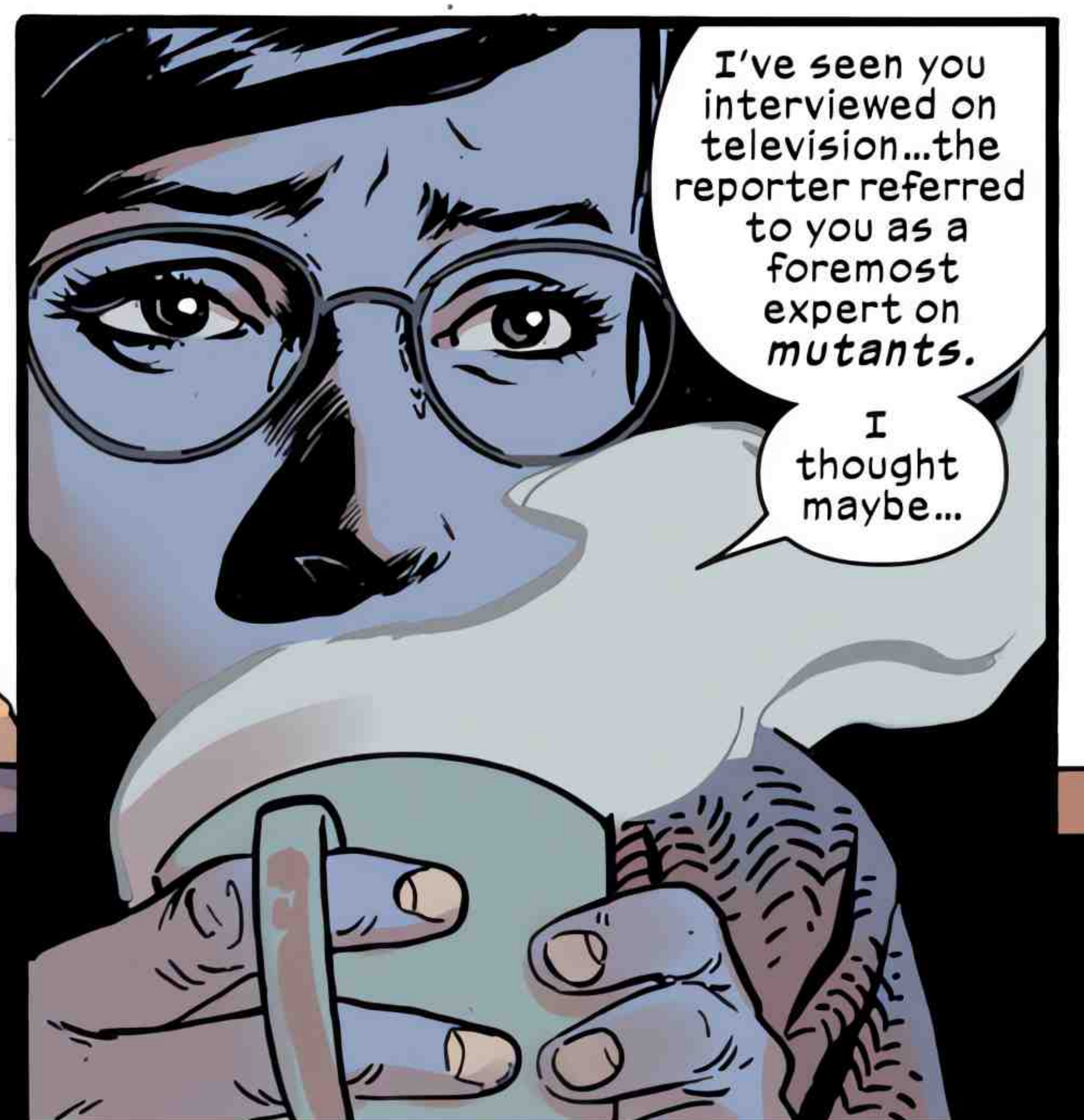
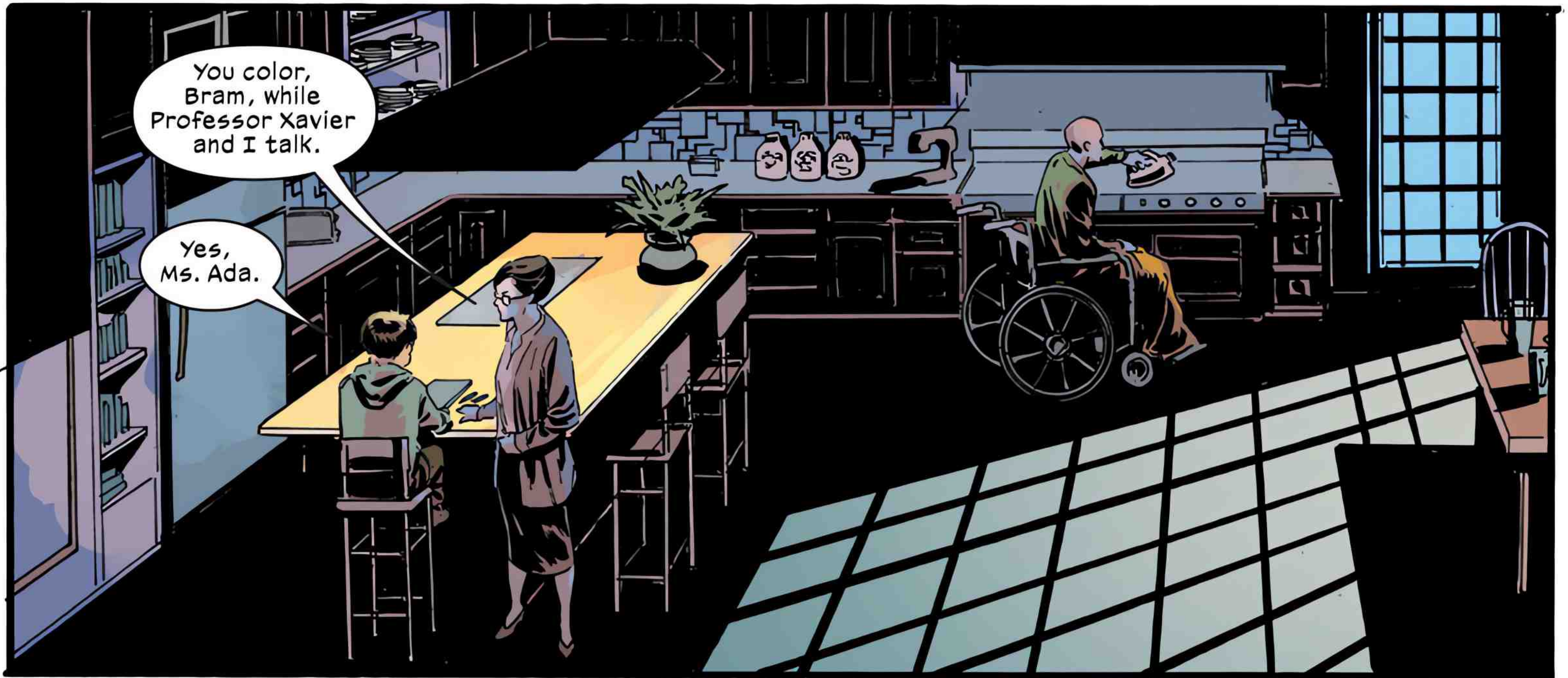


How did you know my name?



I must have heard the boy say it.









I shouldn't have showed you that. Now you're going to tell me I'm scary and weird.

No. Not at all.



In fact, I want to thank you for sharing, Bram. It was brave of you.



I know what it means to be yourself...

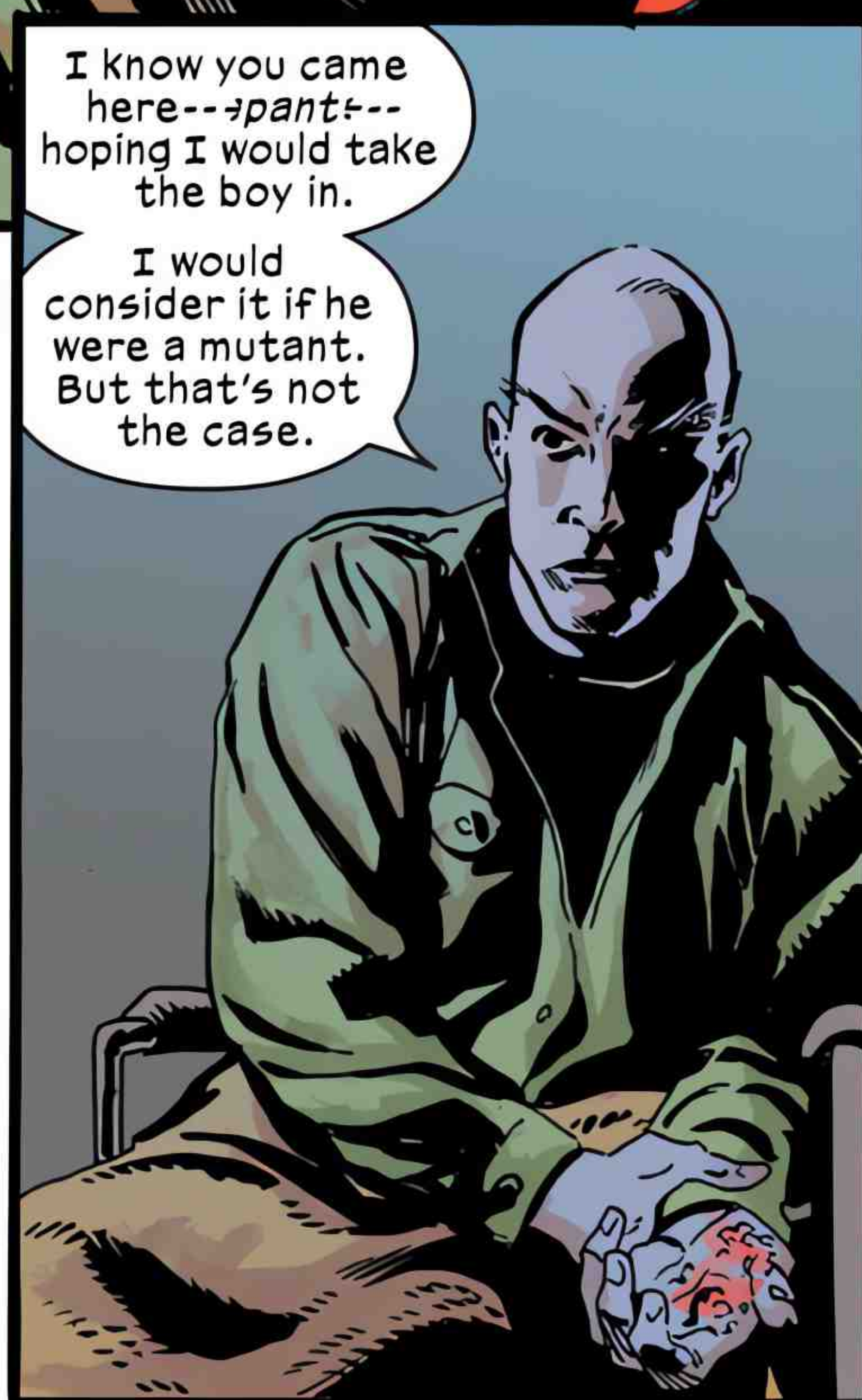


...when yourself doesn't fit in with the rest of the world.



Gaaa!

What's wrong? What happened?



I know you came here--~~spant~~--hoping I would take the boy in.

I would consider it if he were a mutant. But that's not the case.



Then what is he?

I wish I could tell you.

I...might be able to refer you to someone who can help. I suspect you'll need a scholar of *supernatural* arcana.



Come on, Bram.

I don't want to go back to the orphanage! I want to stay here!

This Professor is just like all the rest of them. He just wants to push us off on somebody else.



No! Please!

It's going to be okay.

Why won't he take me? Why can't I be one of his students?



Well?

There's something special about the boy. Dangerously special.



When I tried looking into his mind...it was like looking into a storm cloud.

I'll make some calls on his behalf.

I wish I had time for all the world's orphans and outcasts, but...I'm doing the best I can with you and your cohort for now.



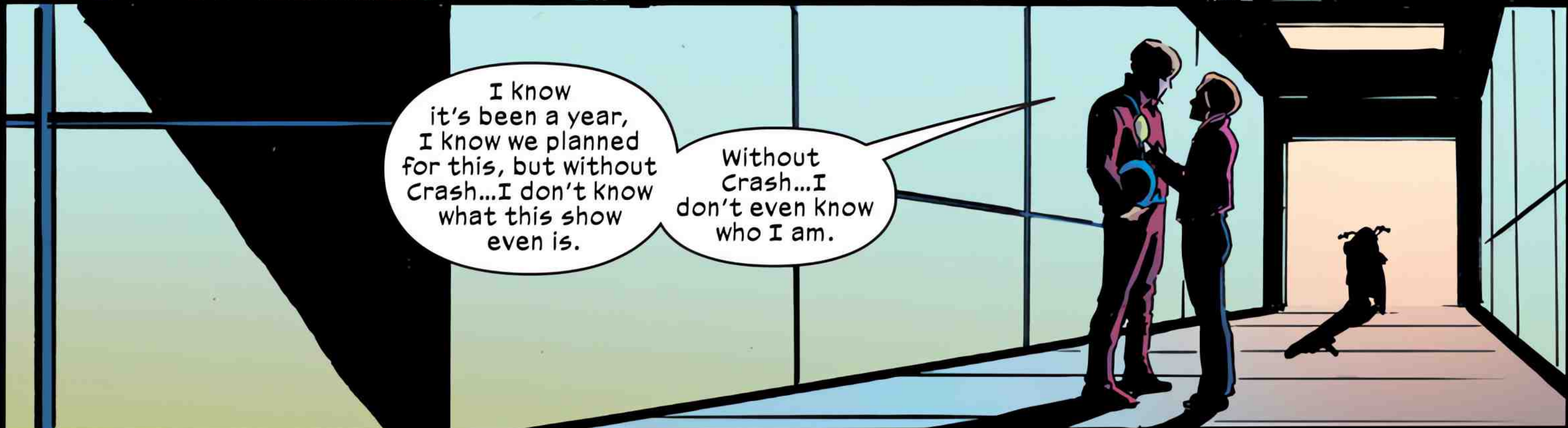
Good riddance.

Kid stunk like a steaming pile of sulfur.

"You should show more sympathy, Logan."

"You know all too well what it means to be alone and haunted by pain."





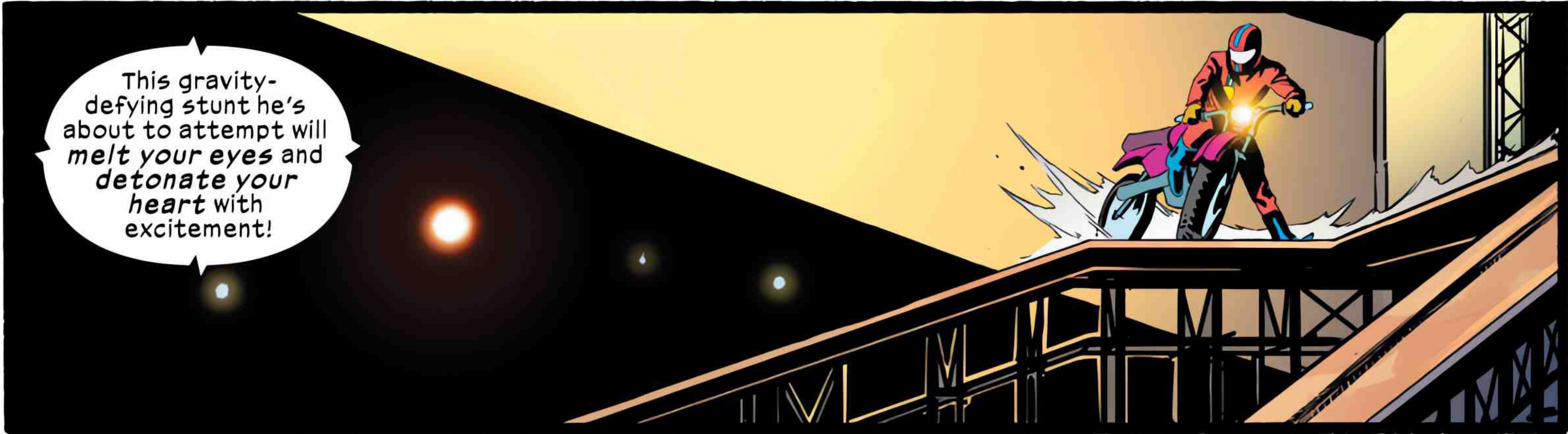
"Be larger than
life, Johnny.
Ride faster
than death."

And now, ladies and
gentlemen, the moment
you've all been
waiting for...

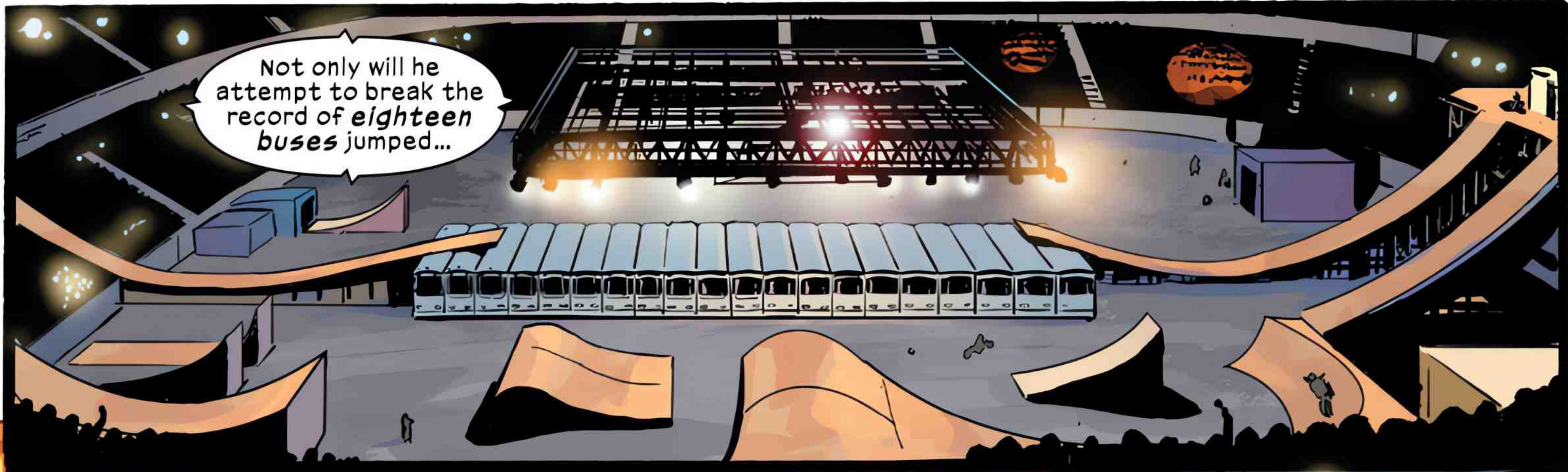
The ultimate
daredevil...

...JOHNNY
BLAZE!





This gravity-defying stunt he's about to attempt will melt your eyes and detonate your heart with excitement!



Not only will he attempt to break the record of *eighteen buses* jumped...



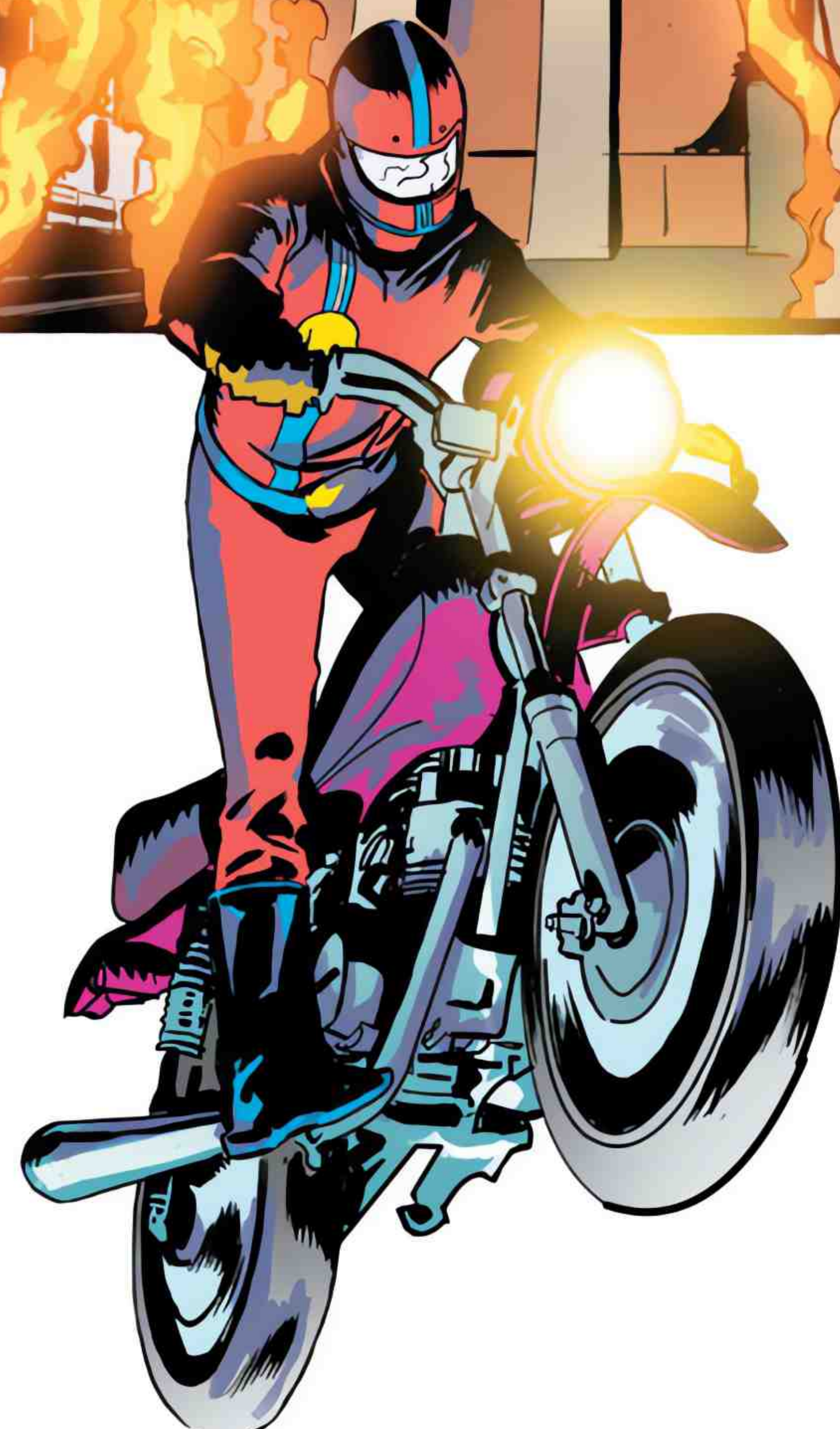
...but he'll do it when they're on fire!

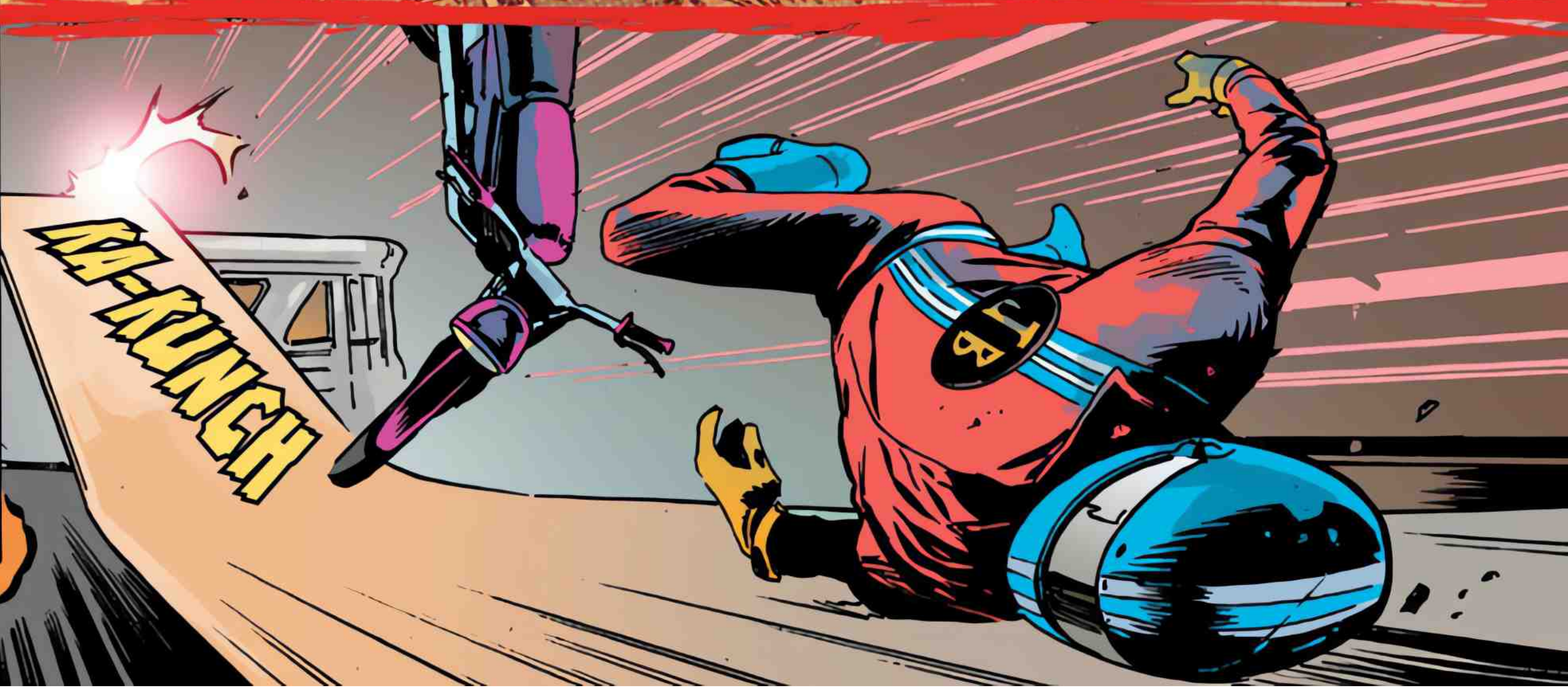
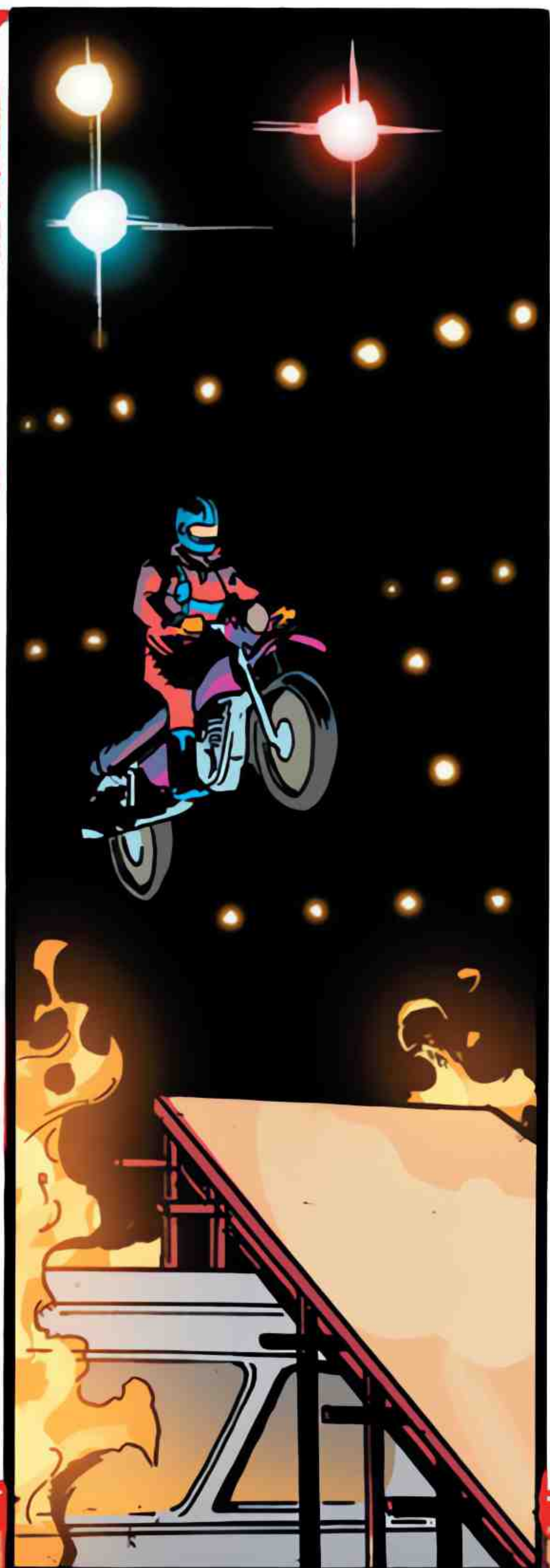
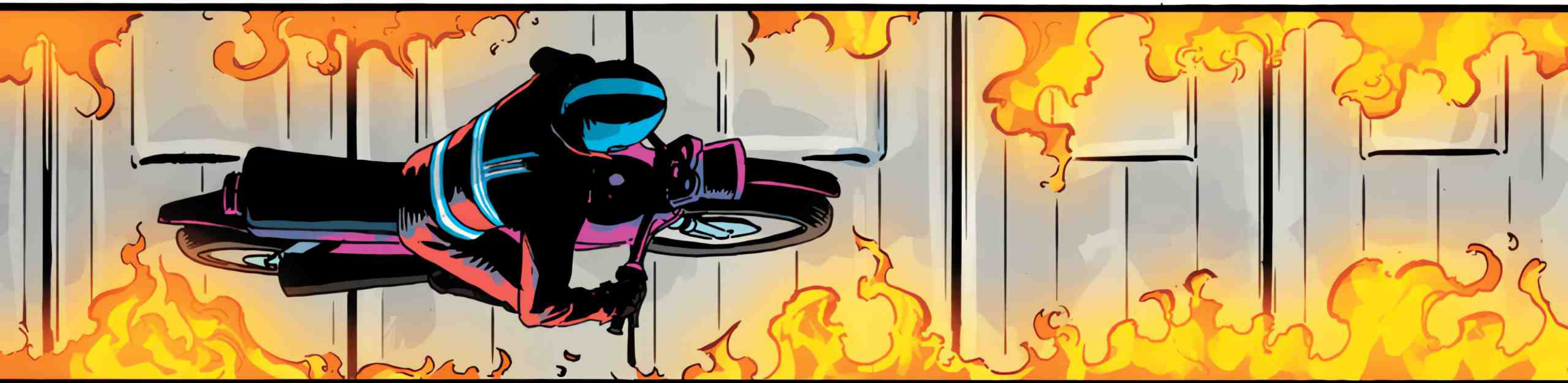
FWOOSH

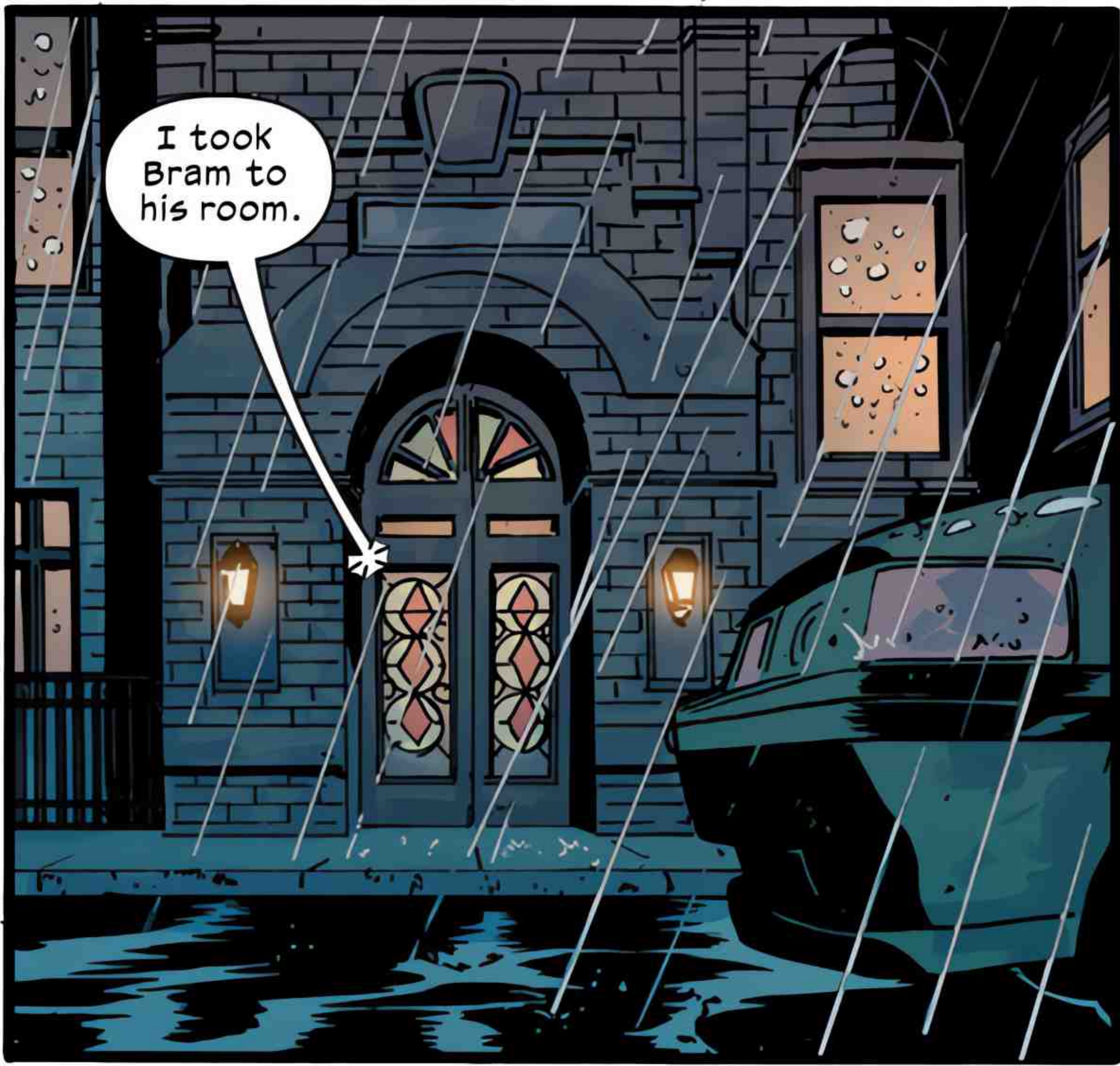


Ride like hell, Johnny Blaze.

And dare the nightmare!







I took Bram to his room.



I thought you said you had a placement for him.

I'm sorry...I tried, Director. The poor kid.



"Don't get emotionally involved, Ada."

"Just get rid of him."



"I know that sounds terrible, but the children can't seem to decide whether they hate or fear him."

"And, frankly, I feel the same."



I wish you wouldn't talk about him like--

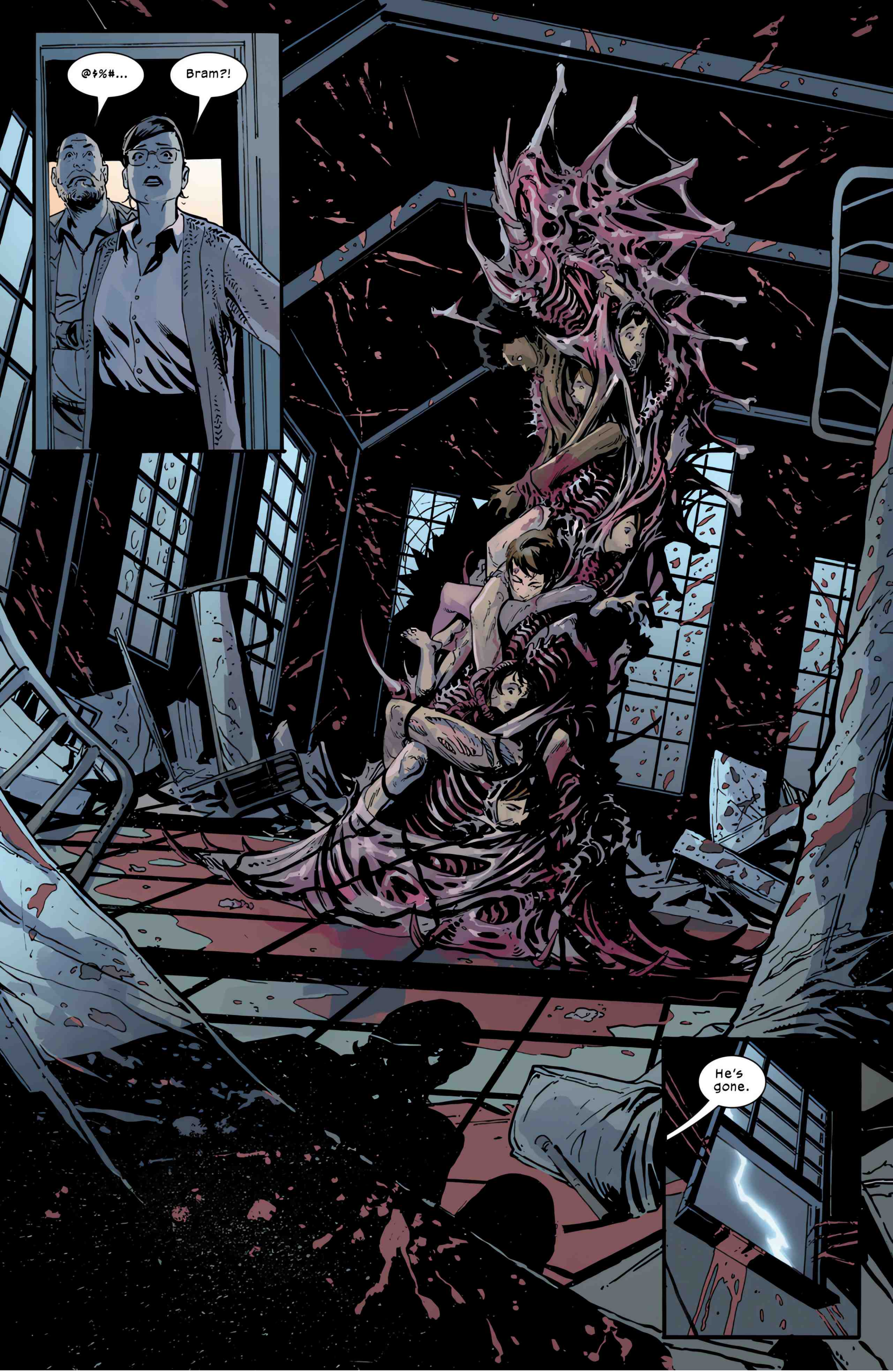
PLIP



?



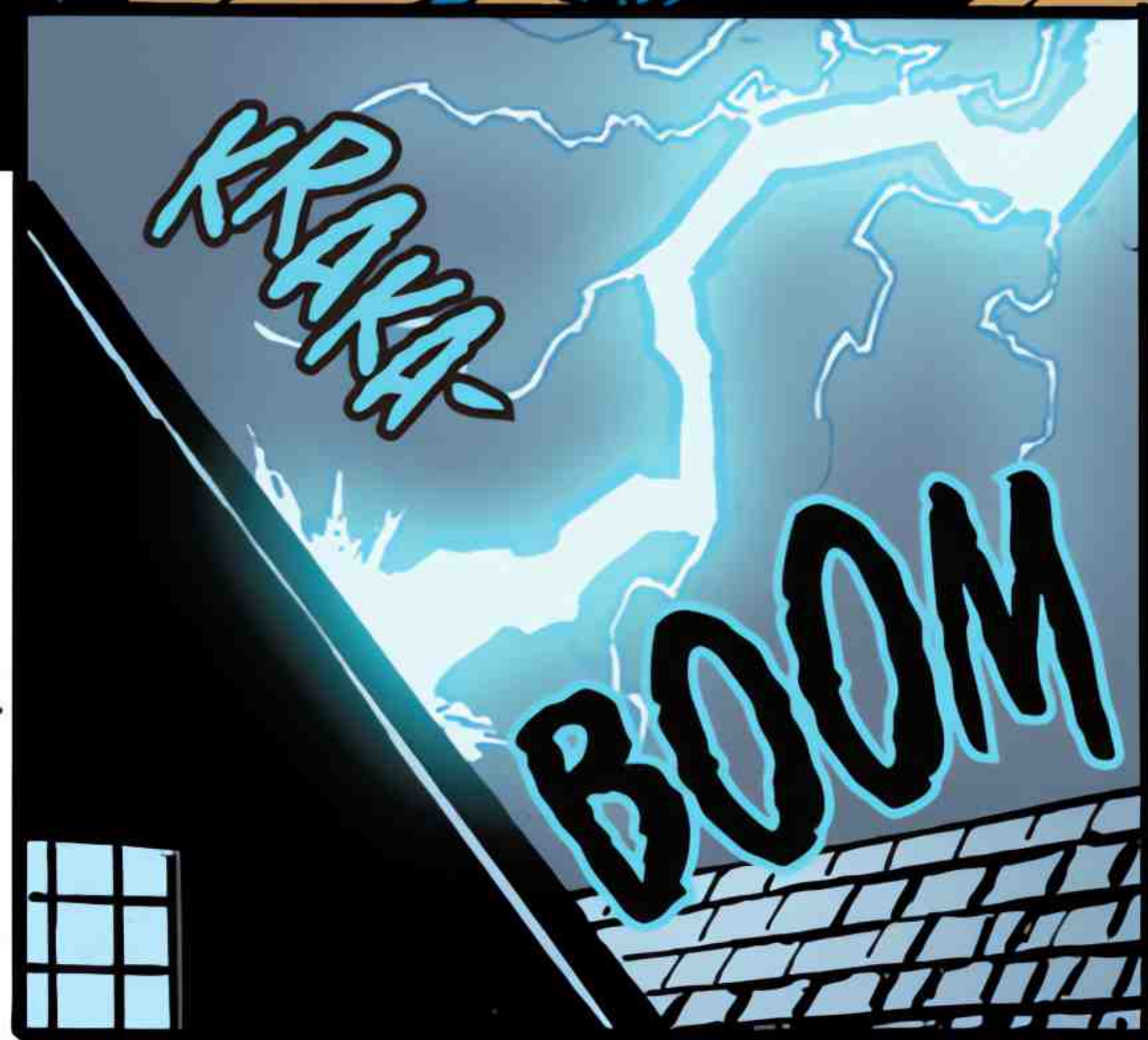
Oh no.



@\$%#...

Bram?!

He's gone.





Can't you do something about this, Storm?

Sigh I'm not a meteorologist who can promise you a calendar of endless sunny days.

Should people ask Xavier to put bright thoughts in their heads every time they're in a bad mood?



Where are the #&%#@!& candles?

In the basement.



Geez, what a wind.

I'll get the door.

WOOOSH



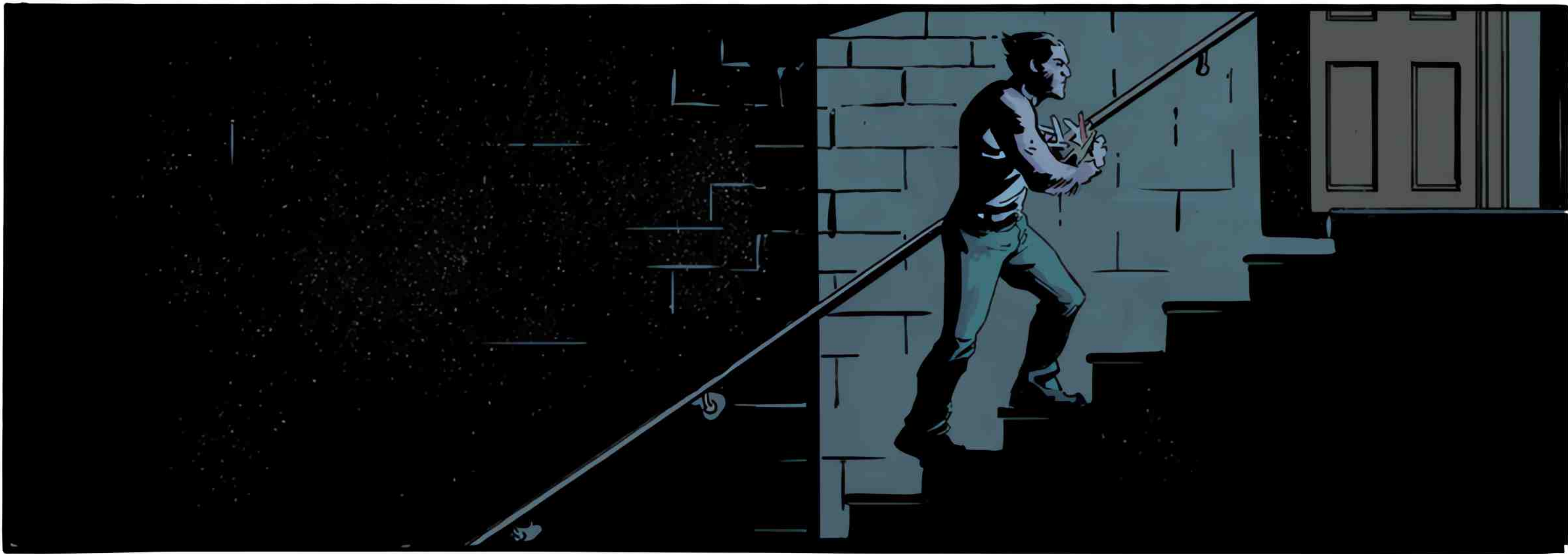
Hello?



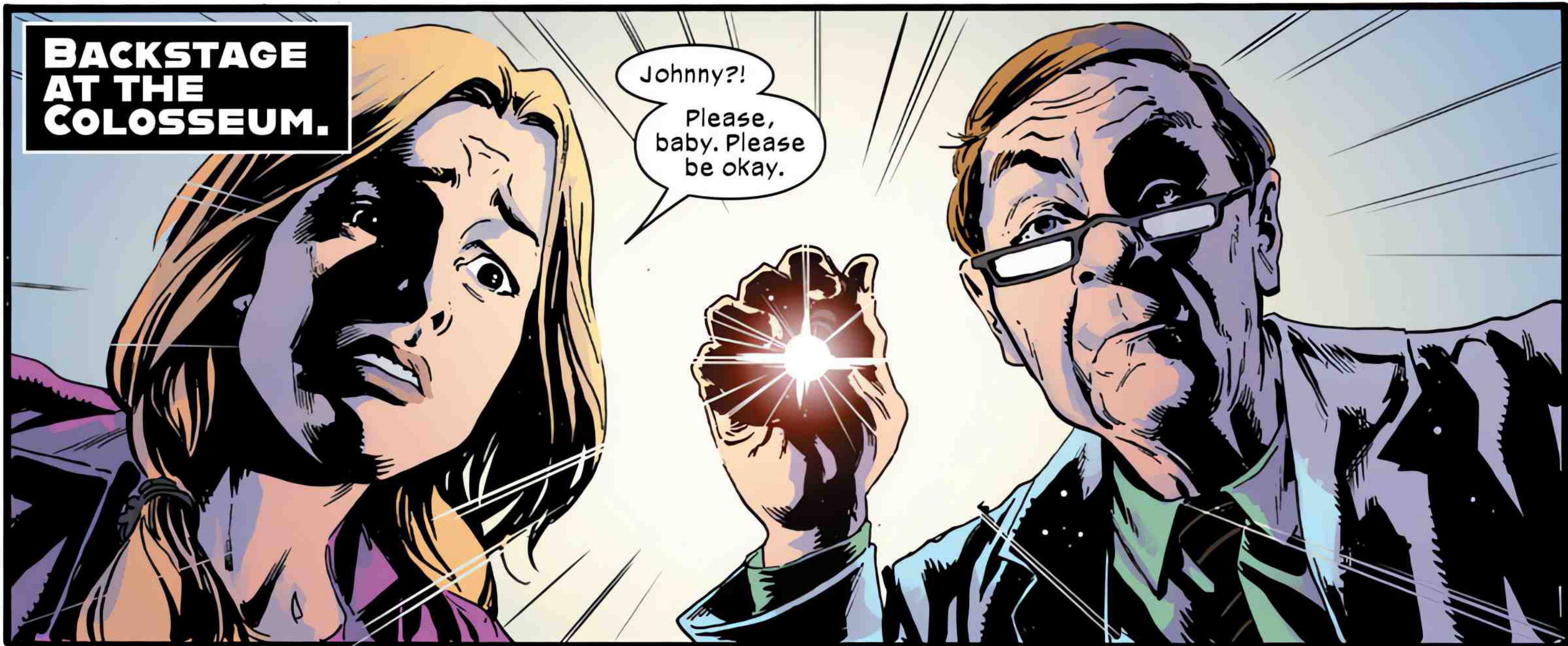
What are you doing out here?

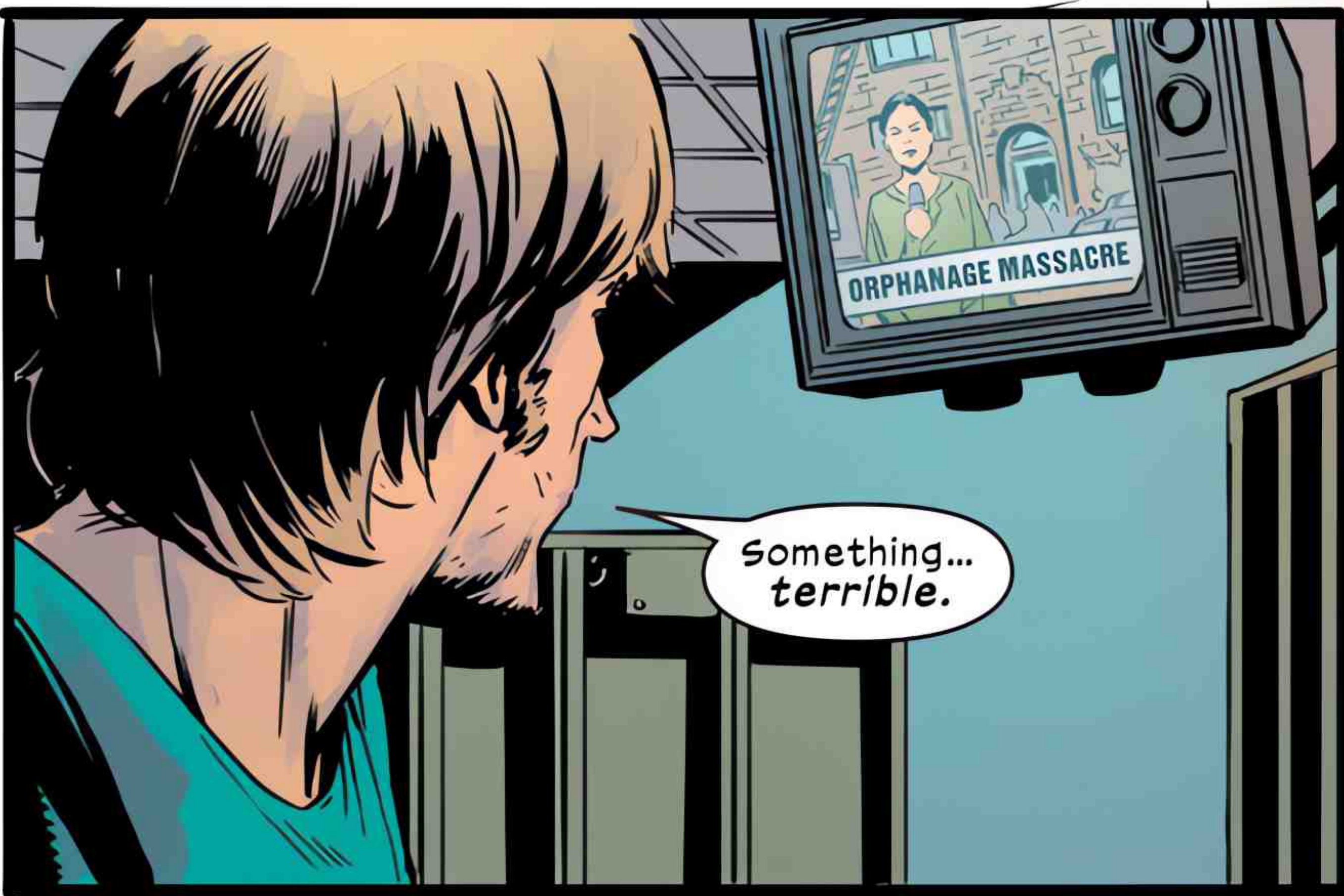


Gasp!









A large, vertical panel on the left side of the page. Wolverine is shown from the waist up, wearing his signature white tank top. He is surrounded by intense, bright orange and yellow flames. His right arm is raised, and his claws are extended. He has a pained or determined expression on his face.

This all happened a long time ago.

A horizontal panel at the top right. Wolverine is shown in mid-air, flying towards the right. He is wearing a white tank top and blue jeans. His arms are outstretched, and there is a bright pinkish-purple energy burst or explosion behind him.

My memory ain't the most reliable.

A horizontal panel in the middle right. Wolverine is lying on the ground in a destroyed building. Debris is flying around him, and there is a large fire in the background. He looks up with a pained expression.

But some scars run deep and hot.

A horizontal panel below the middle right. Wolverine is shown from the chest up, looking towards the right. He has a somber expression. In the background, a young boy is standing in a room with large windows.

I still can't seem to shake the dead gaze of that boy.

A horizontal panel below the previous one. Wolverine is crawling on the ground, looking up at a young boy who is standing over him. The boy is wearing a striped shirt and a jacket. Wolverine looks exhausted or in pain.

The boy who stunk like sulfur.

A horizontal panel at the bottom right. A close-up of Wolverine's face. He has a menacing, snarling expression with his teeth bared. His eyes are glowing yellow.

HISSSSSS!

A horizontal panel at the bottom right. A close-up of Wolverine's face. He has a menacing, snarling expression with his teeth bared. His eyes are glowing yellow.

The boy with the demon on his back.



I hesitated a second, but then the hellfire rose in his eyes.

I understood something then...



The boy and the demon--they were *linked* somehow.



Like a parasite.



I didn't know yet whether one could live without the other.



But I was ready to do whatever I had to...



...to protect this broken family of mine.

I'm all right, Logan. Now go.

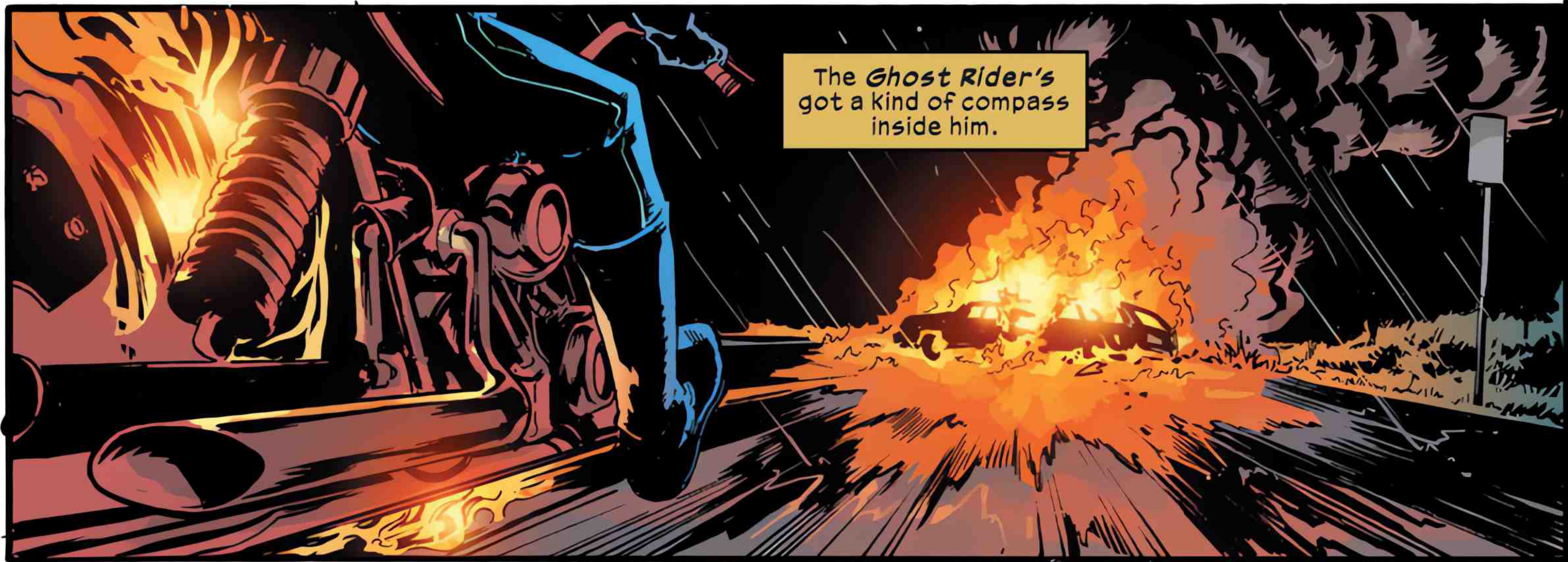
Stop him.

But as
it turns
out...

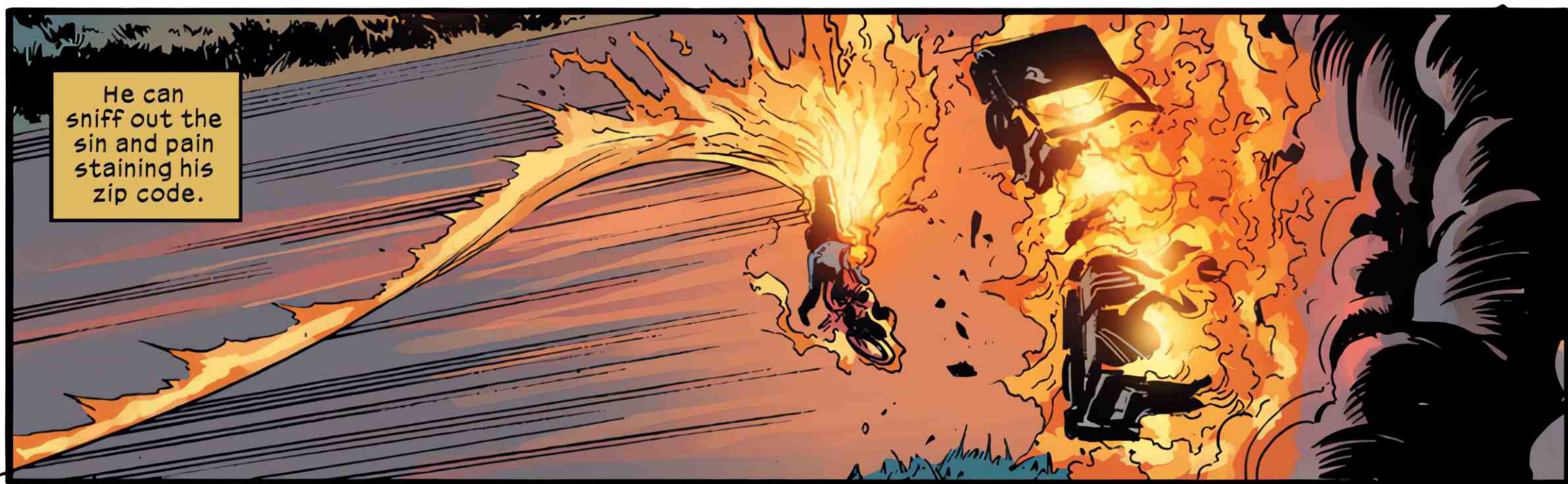


...I wasn't
the only one
hunting that
night.

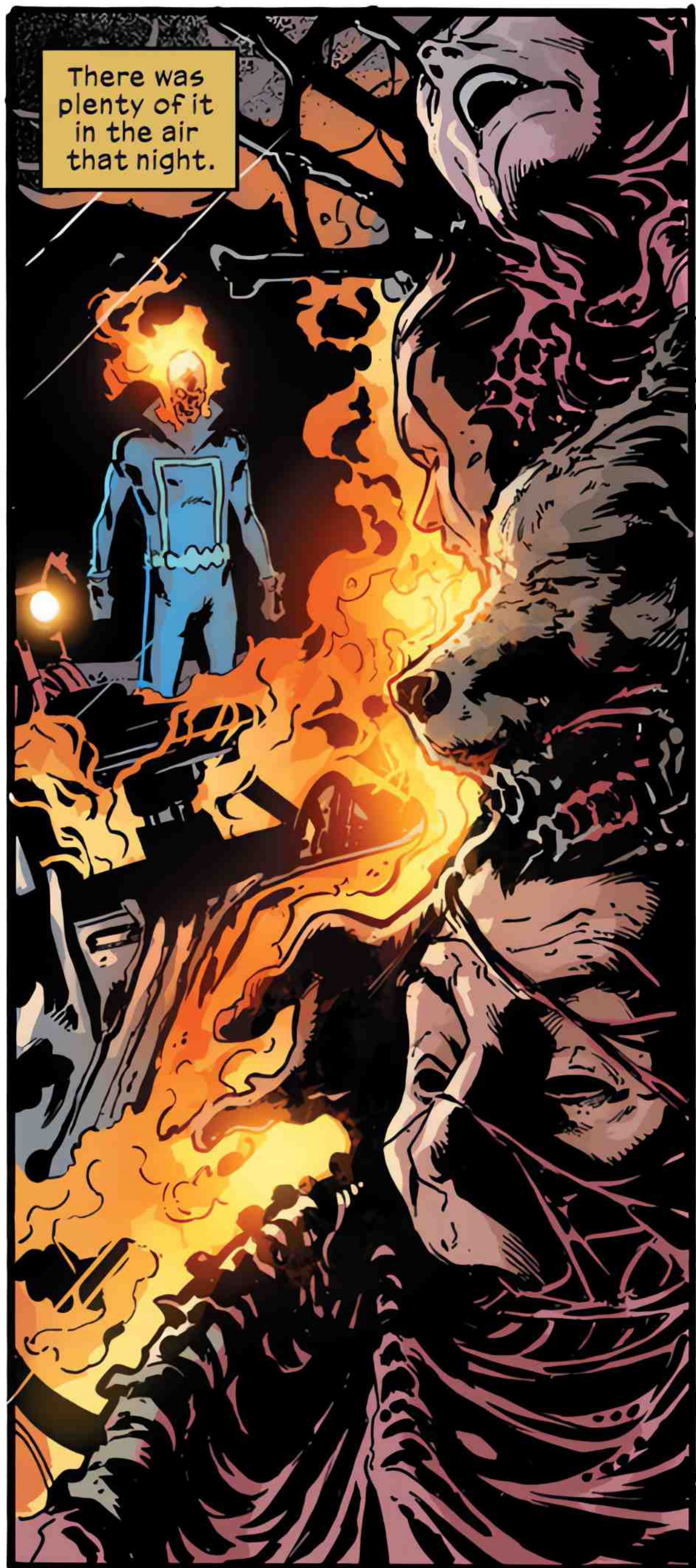




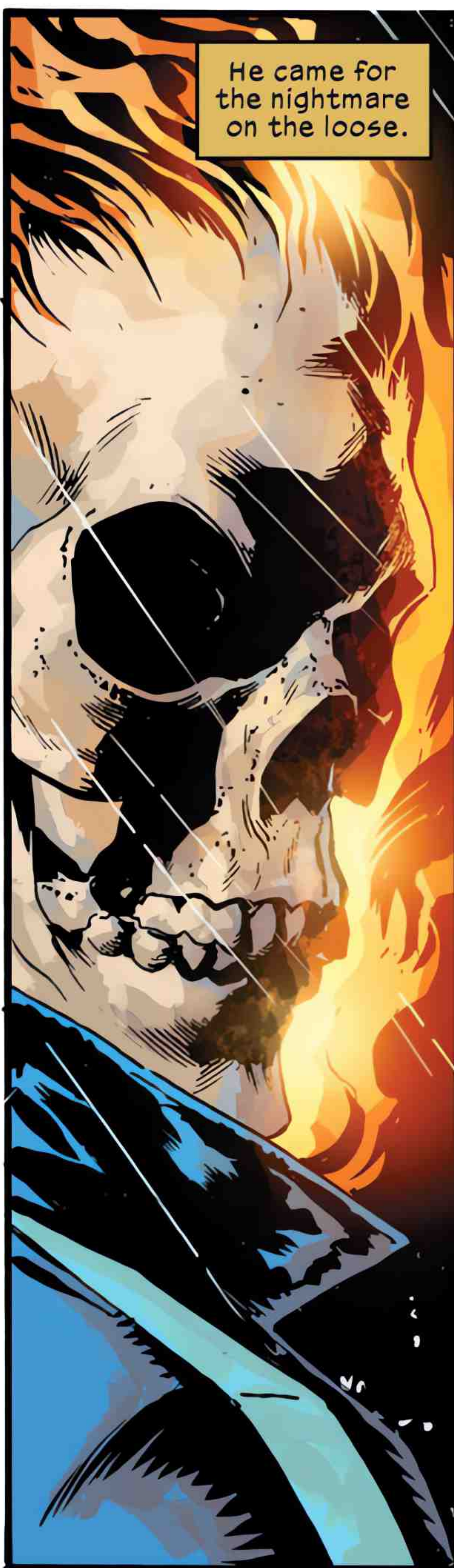
The *Ghost Rider's* got a kind of compass inside him.



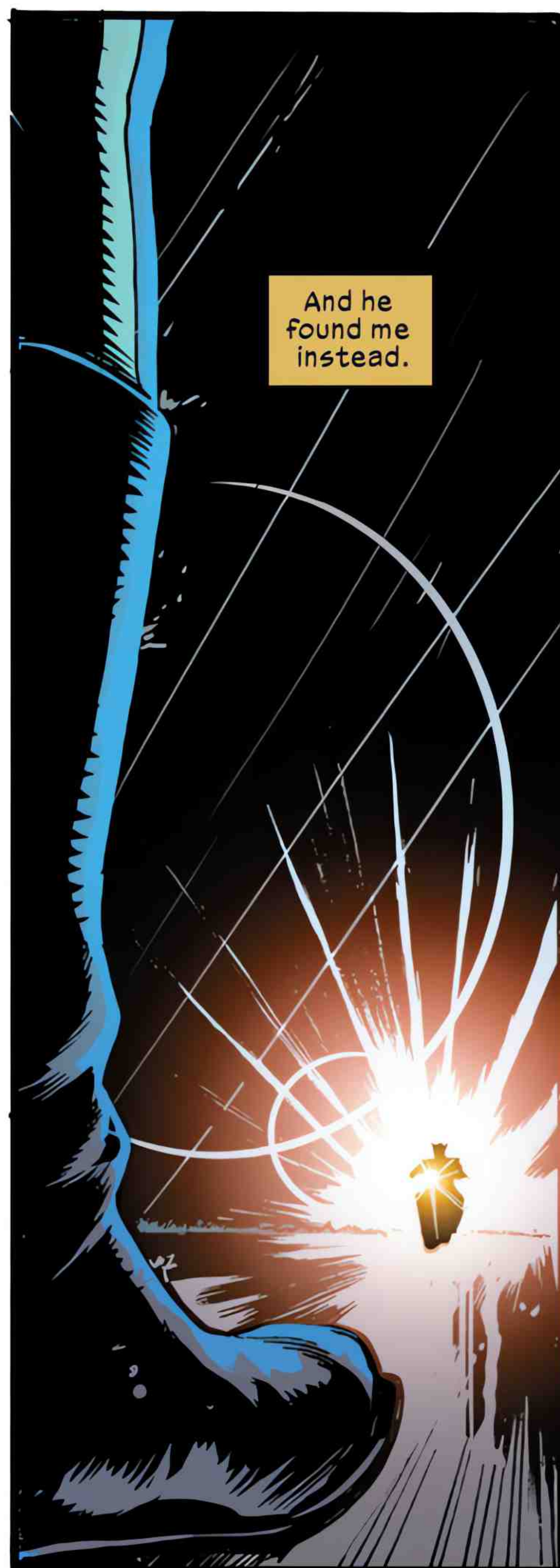
He can sniff out the sin and pain staining his zip code.



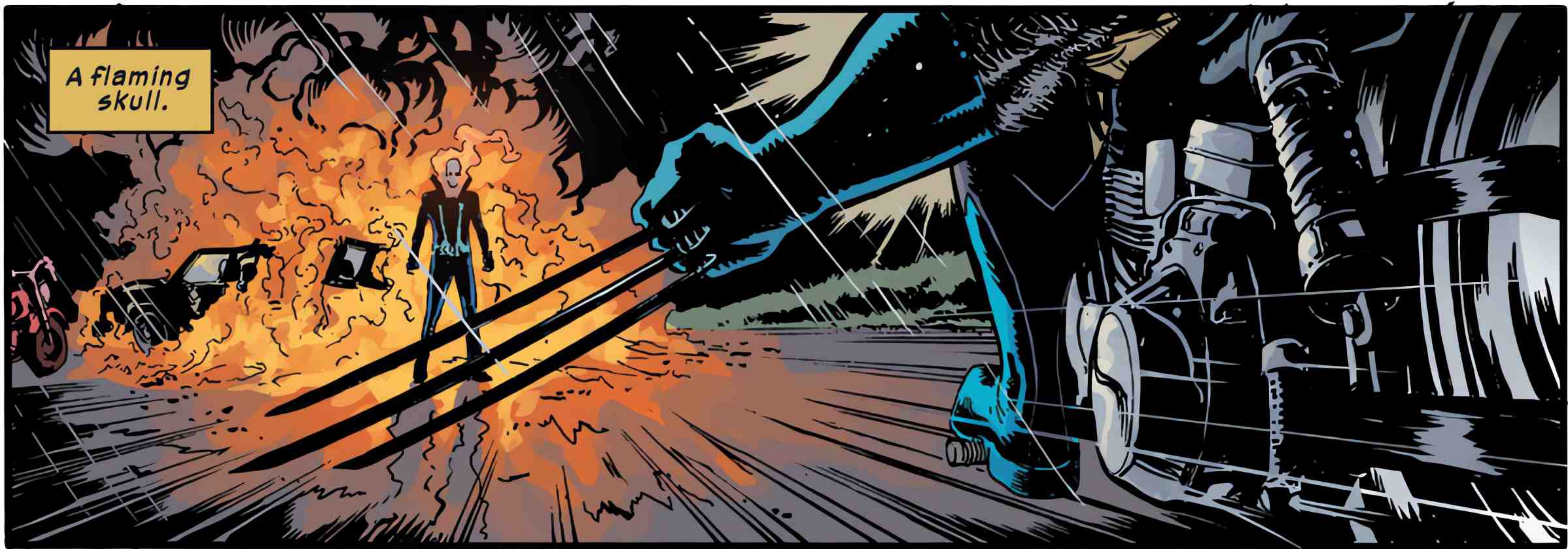
There was plenty of it in the air that night.



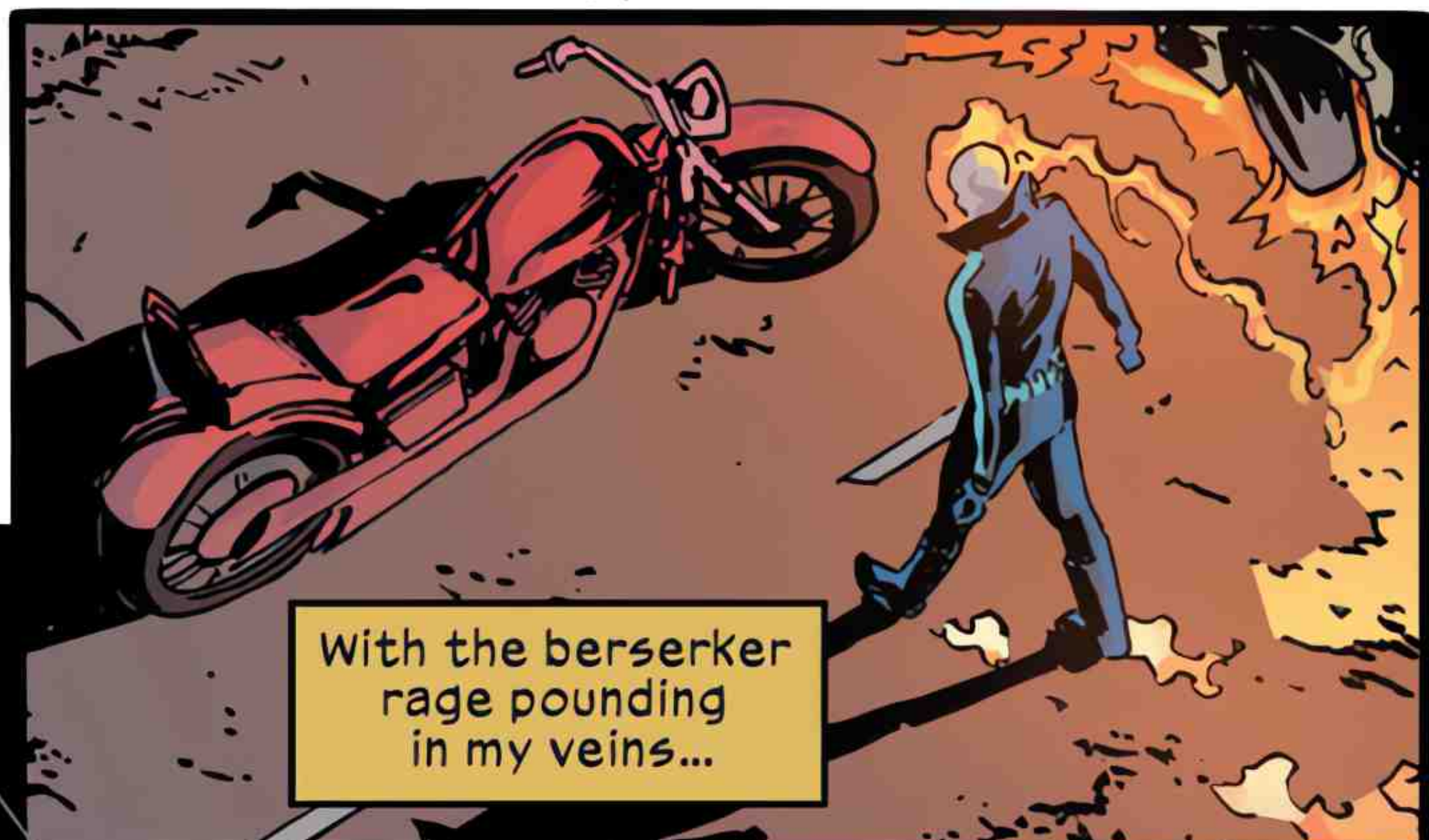
He came for the nightmare on the loose.



And he found me instead.



A flaming skull.



With the berserker
rage pounding
in my veins...



...and with the
rain stinging
me like wasps...



...that's
all I saw.

KRIK



A
monster.

BOOM

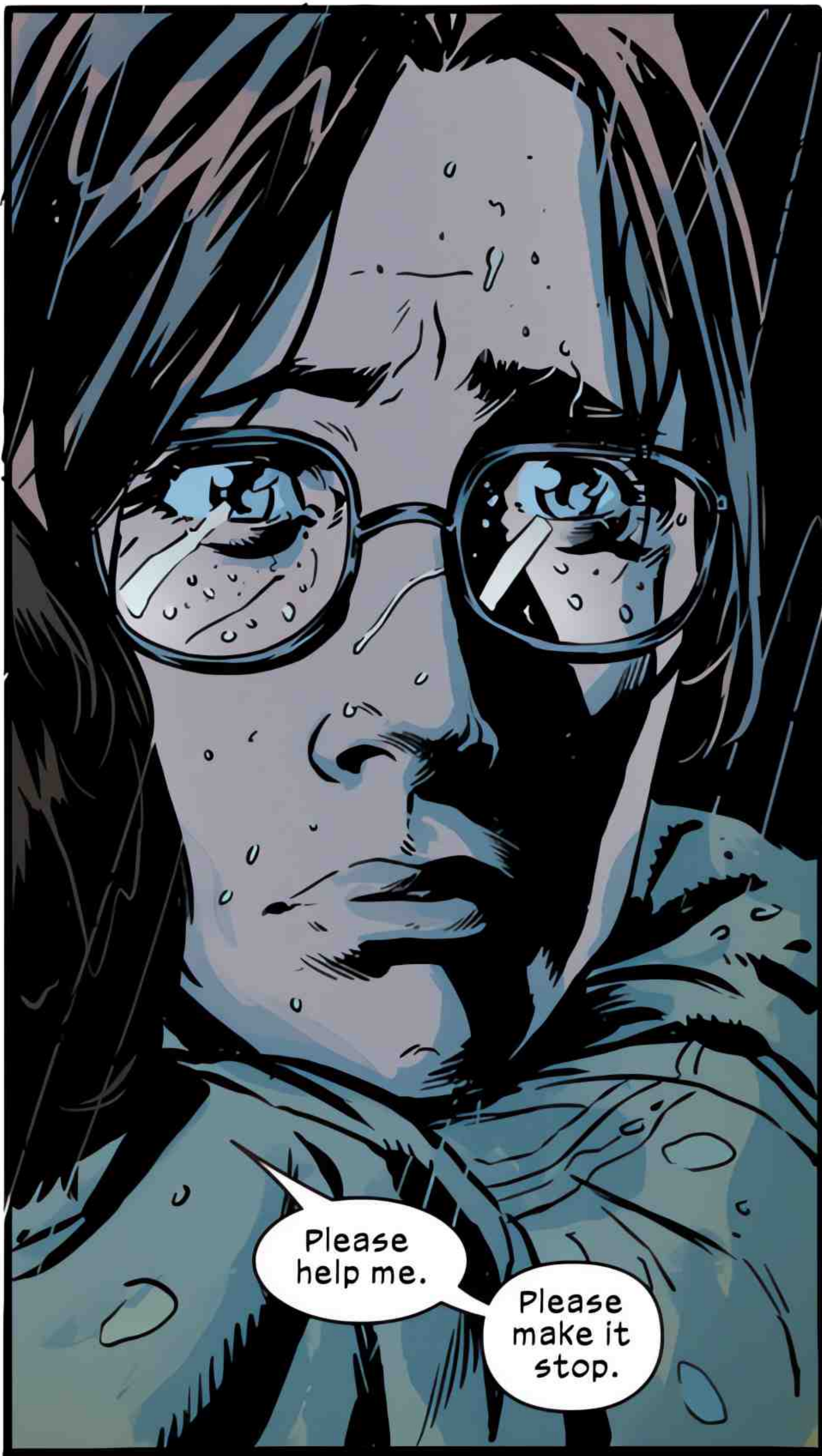
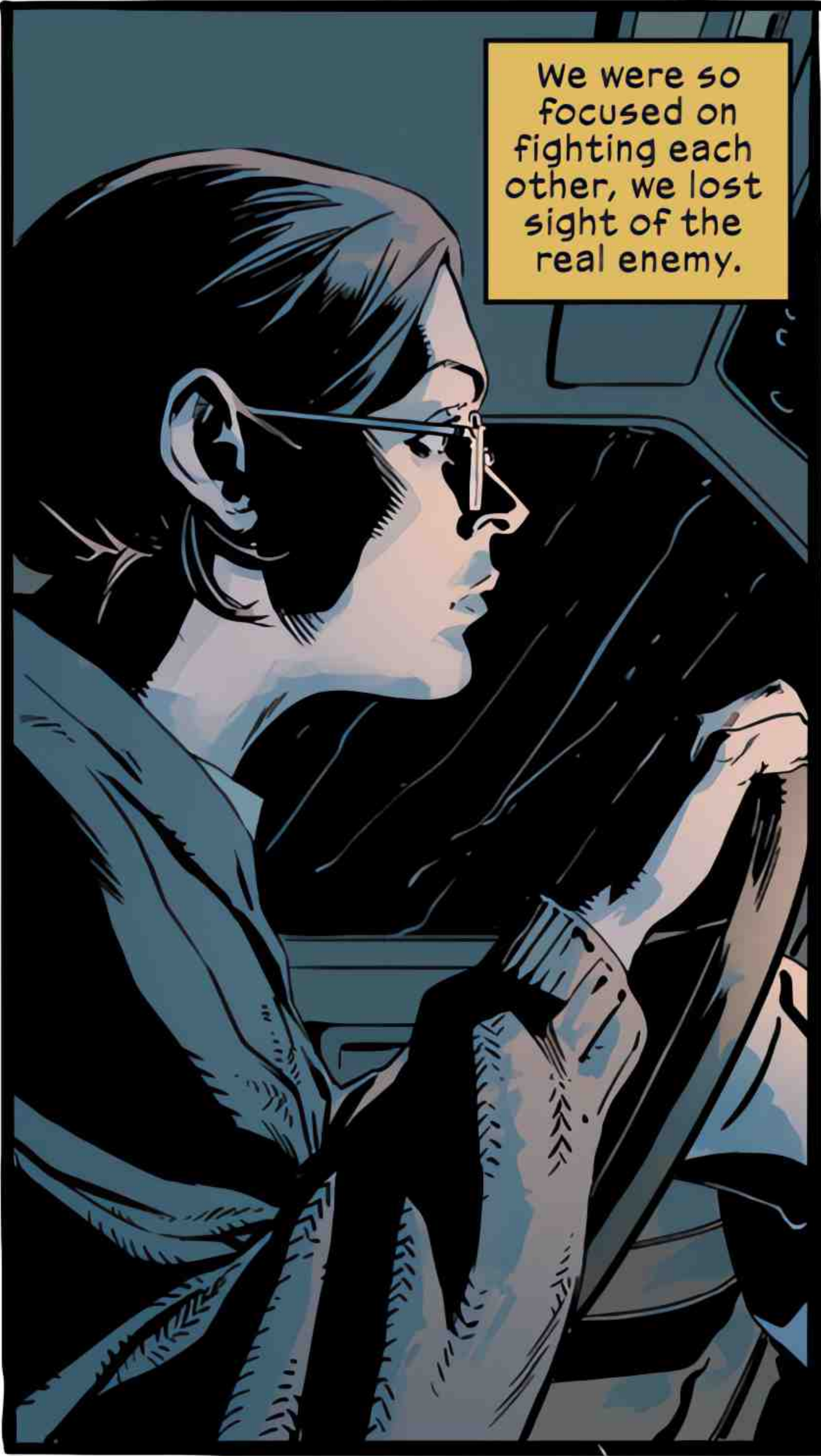


KNCH

Hrrn.

SKASH

I will gladly kill you, but you're not the evil I seek.





PRESENT DAY.

One of the bodies seemed to be Ada Flores...



...the other...who could tell.



This was their home.



You ready to finish what we started, Johnny?



Hell yeah.

But
once
again...

...we have
no idea
what we're
riding into...

...or whether
the two of us are
actually sharing a
lane or headed for
another deadly
collision.



TO BE CONTINUED...IN GHOST RIDER #17!



NEXT GHOST RIDER #17

WEAPONS OF VENGEANCE CHECKLIST

- ~~GHOST RIDER/WOLVERINE: WEAPONS OF VENGEANCE ALPHA #1~~ ...
- GHOST RIDER #17
- WOLVERINE #36
- GHOST RIDER/WOLVERINE: WEAPONS OF VENGEANCE OMEGA #1 ..